

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2003**

PRESENT: Tracy Benzel, Jon Guntow, Wayne Lindgren, Robert Wendt

STAFF PRESENT: Jerry Lowrie, Bureau Director, William Black, Legal Counsel, and Pat Schenck, Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Tracy Benzel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. A quorum of four members was present.

AGENDA

MOTION: Wayne Lindgren moved, seconded by Robert Wendt, to approve the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES MARCH 13, 2003

Amendment to the Minutes:

- Page 2 & 3 "Section Member Activity". Change to Council of Soil Science Examiners, and delete Development Workgroup.

MOTION: Robert Wendt moved, seconded by Jon Guntow, to approve the minutes of March 13, 2003 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AUGUST 29, 2003 - TELECONFERENCE

Amendment to the Minutes:

- Page 1 of 3, Last paragraph prior to Motion. 2nd sentence - cross off Joint Board and insert Section meeting on September 19, 2003.

MOTION: Robert Wendt moved, seconded by Jon Guntow, to approve the minutes of August 29, 2003 Telephone Conference as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
JERRY LOWRIE, BUREAU DIRECTOR**

Jerry Lowrie, Bureau Director of Business and Design introduced himself to the Section and gave a summary on his background and experience in state government and the private sector. Introductions were made around the table.

SECTION ROSTER

Noted.

2003 SECTION/BOARD MEETING DATES

The Section will have a telephone conference on December 16, 2003 to approve a scope statement.

2004 SECTION/BOARD MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for 2004 will be finalized in October, 2003.

TO-DO LIST

Noted.

**RECIPROCITY – SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY WITH OTHER STATES –
EXPERIENCE HOURS, DEGREE AND EXAMS.**

The Section reviewed the requirements for Soil Science from other states on education and experience and requested that reciprocity applicants attach a copy of the statute and rules requirements from their state to their Wisconsin application for the Sections review.

MOTION: Robert Wendt moved, seconded by Jon Guntow, to direct William Black, Legal Counsel to draft a scope statement related to promulgating rules to establish the substantially equivalency parameters for reciprocity. Motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

None.

SECTION MEMBER ACTIVITY

Tracy Benzel attended the exam development with the Council of Soil Science Examiners in Minneapolis, MN.

PRACTICE ISSUES PECFA ISSUES - UPDATE – BILL BLACK

No update.

EXAMINATION ISSUES

COUNCIL OF SOIL SCIENCE EXAMINERS EXAM DEVELOPMENT, TRACY BENZEL

Tracy Benzel reported on practical exam development with the Council of Soil Science Examiners in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Benzel learned how the exam process works in Soil Science and learned what other states are doing. Every state had a representative in preparing and rewriting exam questions. Mr. Benzel recommended that Board members rotate attending the exam development process as it would benefit them personally and professionally.

The Council of Soil Science Examiners will be working on the fundamentals exam on July 12-17, 2004 in Lexington, Kentucky. States who license Soil Scientist should have a representative present to work on the fundamental exam. Mr. Benzel will check if Wisconsin's representative must be an active Soil Science Section member, professor or a licensed Wisconsin Soil Scientist.

WSPSS UPDATE – REGARDING BECOMING A CE APPROVED ORGANIZATION – BARBARA SHOWERS

Barbara Showers contacted Ross Fugill regarding Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists (WSPSS) interest in helping the Department with continuing education approval. The availability of continuing education courses is unknown at this time. Ms. Showers reported that there is a lot of clerical and administrative work involved in evaluating CE courses, approving CE courses, and to maintain a list of approved courses.

WSPSS supports continuing education. Ms. Showers will update Ross Fugill on the Sections decisions concerning continuing education for Soil Scientists.

The Section is undecided if a formal continuing education program is necessary to maintain licensure. Is there enough justification to warrant continuing education? The Section has not seen any

complaints or discipline issues which would indicate that soil scientists would benefit by taking continuing education courses.

The Section requested that the Department cross reference Certified Soil Scientist members from the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy Crops and Soils (ARCPAC) against Wisconsin licensed Soil Scientists to see if there is an overlap. ARCPAC requires continuing education credits. 90% or more of Wisconsin licensed Soil Scientist may already be taking continuing education credits through ARCPAC.

Mr. Benzel will be attending WSPSS meeting on October 24, 2003 in Stevens Point.

LIST OF PUBLIC, PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND DEPARTMENTS THAT DEAL WITH LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS-BARB SHOWERS.

The Section would like the master list updated for all Horticulture, Agronomy, Soil Science, Environmental Science, Hydrology, and Geology schools to include the name of the professor or instructors.

This list could be used for mailing letters directly to the professors or instructors to inform students when to sign up for exams in the fall and spring, that licensure with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is required for practicing in Wisconsin and that seniors should write the Soil Science Practical Exam while they are still a senior in college

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW – BILL BLACK

Jerry Lowrie distributed information that the State Bar is taking before the Supreme Court in order to create a Committee of Study at the November 18, 2003 Hearing.

The Joint Board discussed how this new law would impact their professions. The Joint Board agreed to send a letter of concern to the Supreme Court to explain the Boards concerns and how it will impact their professions, with a request that Mike Davey be appointed to this Committee to provide some guidance on this issue.

The Joint Board requested that Steve Donohue draft and sign a letter to the Supreme Court on Department letterhead, stating the Board opposes rewriting the rule, but if it's going to be rewritten the Board would press for the appointment of Mike Davey for professional input and guidance in drafting the rule on the Boards behalf.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

There were no issues to discuss in closed session.

SUCH OTHER ITEMS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jon Guntow moved, seconded by Wayne Lindgren, to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 16, 2003 by Telephone Conference

Next meetings agenda items:

2004 Meeting Dates

Review Scope statement